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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 79, Issue 4, Meeting #905, April 8, 2026

Next Meeting May 13, 2026

APRIL NEWS

Lots of things are happening with the RECC, now and in the future. Merle talked about some coin shows that are coming up. He also told us about some donations. There was a generous \$100 anonymous donation to the club in memory of Art Maybrun, a late member of the club. There were also two donations of foreign coins to the junior members, coincidentally going with the theme of the night.

The July 8 meeting will be right at the time of our country's 250th anniversary. We will have a barbeque, a grading contest, a special membership drawing including a gold coin (so of course you will have to be there to win), and perhaps some other special prizes. More to come.

Next month's meeting will be a week after Cinco de Mayo, 5/5/2026. So, we will have a meeting topic of **Any Numismatic Item with a Denomination of Five**. Five cents, five pesos, five dollars, five anything you can think of! Bring in an item or talk about one and get four free raffle tickets. And as usual, if you have photos of your item(s) please e-mail them to the club at newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com so we can show it on the projector screen while you talk about it. There will be Zoom availability for those unable to attend in person. But you will want to be there, because there will be a **2-peso Mexican gold piece being raffled** as well.

We learned that longtime member Phil Avila passed away this year. Phil was a regular attendee (when he wasn't traveling to New York with his friend). He was a big Civil War buff as well as liking ancient Roman coins. We will miss seeing Phil sitting in the front row at future meetings.

Skipping ahead to the special drawing we had later in the meeting, our 6(+) Membership Gold Drawing was held before the raffle. This 2.5 g coin could not be found on the internet, but it was tested and verified as pure 24k gold. Many thanks to the generosity of Seth Chandler at Witter Coins for donating this. For all our membership drawings, you must be present to win. And the first three membership numbers drawn were not present. The fourth try worked, with the prize going to David B! That was a nice little foreign coin to add to his collection.



FAVORITE FOREIGN COINS

- Kim S has a small 1912 foreign copper coin that has bright red surfaces and entirely black on the lettering. He loves coins like that- no black on the copper surfaces but OK on the lettering.
- Gary C talked about the March meeting of the Victoria (B.C.) Numismatic Society where a show and tell item was a RECC rectangular wood! His favorite foreign coin changes every year. This year it is the Mexico 20-peso gold piece produced from 1917-1921 and again 1959-1971. He described the history of the series. Gary



feels the design with the ancient Aztec Sun Stone to be stunning. He learned to appreciate the art of an engraver from his father, and this is a good example. The central face on the Sun Stone with a protruding tongue (representing a flint knife) is remarkably similar to the image on his Canadian 'toonie' (\$2 coin) representing a Native American Bear symbol. Interesting similarities for cultures 500 years and 4500 kilometers apart.

- Bill P showed us his favorite, a 1902 Mexico one peso silver coin. It is about the size of a Morgan dollar coin. A radiant Liberty cap is featured on the reverse. He particularly likes the eagle with a snake on the obverse.
- Alan S had a fun story to tell about his silver \$5 Canadian coin. Note the privy mark figure of Sasquatch under the maple leaf on the reverse. A couple of these came into the coin shop where he works. A fellow co-worker is of the Karuk tribe of Indigenous People and told Alan that Big Foot is real. His tribal family for generations in the inland Klamath River area has had a mutually respectful relationship with the Big Foot beings. Alan was a bit incredulous and looked up information about it. Sure enough there was a recorded history, including a Indigenous name for Big Foot that roughly translated to "Stinky Relative". It is now Alan's favorite coin, because.....Big Foot is real.
- Jeffrey S (via Zoom) has been interested in foreign coins since he was a kid. It began when he received a Canadian penny in pocket change. He always wanted to learn about English coins, beginning with the shilling denomination. His beautiful 1897 shilling featured the Queen Victoria 'Old Head' portrait, graded NGC AU 58. He discussed the history that coin, which was a bit smaller than a US quarter, and is happy he added it to his collection.



- David B had two items to show. First was something his father brought back after being stationed in India during World War II. The square shape and the squiggles and lines always intrigued him. It is silver, from a 1469-1500 sultanate in central India, 1/2 rupee denomination. The other was what his maternal uncle gave his father after being stationed in Panama during World War II: a 1934 denominational set of Panama Balboas. The 1934 coins were minted in San Francisco; all other

years of Panamanian Balboa coins were minted in Philadelphia. They have the same value and weight as US coins. Interestingly they list the purity (90% silver) and the weight of the coin on the reverse. He discussed the symbolism of the engraving.



- Dave G has a friend who went to Israel in 2013 and bought an 11-12 AD Shekel of Tyre for him, an example of the "thirty pieces of silver" minted during the lifetime of Christ in the City of Tyre (Phoenicia). It cost Dave \$800. Dave finally made it to Jerusalem himself in 2023. He went to a coin dealer there, showed a picture of the coin, and was offered \$7500 for it! Dave declined the offer, liking his coin. It is worth perhaps half that here, but there are people willing to pay more in some places. The Shekels of Tyre minted during the lifetime of Christ are an increasingly popular coin, and value goes up regularly. The Crucifixion dated ones (33-34 AD) do command about twice that price. Dave loved to hold it in



his hands (before eventually having it slabbed), feeling the history behind the coin. It is that story that makes it special.

- Mike M has hundreds of foreign coins. He likes to look them up, label them, and put them in folders... when he has time. And he has hundreds more, which will be a lot of fun in the future. There are a couple websites with good info on foreign coins: NGC and Numista.
- Erik S showed his French jeton (token), a silver stockbroker's token from Bordeaux France during the Napoleonic era- circa 1803. He liked the octagonal shape and the representation of commerce holding the world and overlooking a ship in a harbor on the obverse. Bordeaux was a center of commerce at the time. The central motto on the reverse is Latin for French Republic. His is the finest of two graded by PCGS.
- Merle A does not collect foreign coins, except maybe gold. He has a set of 1838-1932 British sovereigns, all in sequential order. There were other dates and types of sovereigns made, but they weren't included with this set when he bought it in 1989 averaging \$20 per coin. He talked about the series.



- Charlie C (that's me) talked about the favorite foreign coin from three eras. The Roman Republican denarius from 114 BC is a brockage, where a coin previously struck gets stuck on a die, and it becomes the image imparted on the next planchet. The reverse is incuse rather than raised- a mirror image. The 1561 sixpence of Queen Elizabeth I was the first English attempt at using a screw press, rather than just being hammered. The press was in part run by horse-powered mill, so these are called milled coinage. But it took too long to mint coins, so this lasted only ten



years. But it did allow for incredibly more detail in the coins. Finally, a medal first minted in Paris shortly after the 1906 SF earthquake, in sympathy from France for the people of San Francisco. In 2006 the Paris Mint made 100 gold-plated bronze restrikes. I ordered one initially, lost it in the Tubbs Fire in 2017, but fortunately found a replacement.

Can't make the next meeting? Join us via Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81998385914?pwd=O19DWvMgGQ61nUhMgswJ4Ks5WSgzBo.1>

Meeting ID: 819 9838 5914. Passcode: 052026

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DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: John B, Otto O, David A, Roger N, and Bill V

50:50 pot of \$94 was split with a guest

Raffle: Richard P, Chris S, Mike M, David B, Guest, Rick R, Bill R, Tiffany S, Dan C, Joel M, and Gil M.h

April Attendance: 57+

New Members: not this month

Guests: yes, we had some.

Auction: 44 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

April 26, 2026. Cupertino Coin Club Annual Coin Show. St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, 10110 N. DeAnza Blvd., Cupertino

June 5-6, 2026. East Bay Concord Show. Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord.

July 17-18, 2026. Reno Coin Show. J Resort, 345 North Arlington Avenue, Reno

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Club's meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), in the "**Dinner Room**" on the east side of the building, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at: newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com.
See you **May 13, 2026**— Charlie